

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

I agree that competition is best for all consumers. For historical perspective, markets open to competition offer customers higher service at cheaper prices. An excellent example of this was the deregulation of the telephone market. The prices of long distance telephone calls have come down exponentially since the breakup of AT&T.